



## Mary Katherine Collins

December 20, 1971 - February 11, 2024

Mary Katherine Collins, Director of the Town of Ulster Public Library, died in her home in West Hurley, NY, on February 11th, 2024, after a struggle with cancer. She was fifty-two.

Mary was born in Macon, GA, and grew up in Pasadena, CA, where she graduated from The Westridge School and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Art Center College of Design. She moved to New York City to pursue her vocation in photography and her work was published in magazines and books. Mary continued her education with a Master of Library and Information Science, with a concentration in Rare Books and Special Collections, from Long Island University. Several years later, she received a Master of Arts, Liberal Studies, from City University of New York.

Before coming to the Town of Ulster Public Library, Mary worked as the Special Collections Librarian at the Mercantile Library, and later as librarian for the Holland Society of New York, where she developed her interest in genealogy, becoming a certified genealogist. She also consulted with the Jacob Leisler Institute for the Study of Early New York History.

Mary spoke highly of the staff, board and patrons of the Town of Ulster Public Library. She was a visionary and enjoyed developing plans for the growth of programs for the community.

Mary is survived by her partner of 22 years, Thomas Ostoyich; her parents, Howard and Bonnie Collins of Macon, GA; brother, Ben Collins (Kim) of Westlake Village, CA and their three children, Mason, Caitlin and Natalie; and sister, Melissa Cramer (Alex) of Richmond, VA and their two children, Hayes and Miles. She loved her many pets, and is survived by her beloved dog Rufus.

Donations in Mary's memory may be made to the Town of Ulster Public Library, 800 Ulster Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401. Memorial services are planned for later. Please offer your condolences for Mary Katherine and her family online at [www.BuonoFuneralService.com](http://www.BuonoFuneralService.com).

To DONATE to the Town of Ulster Library, please CLICK one of the links below or paste one into your browser.

<http://townofulsterlibrary.org/about-us/support-us/>

<https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=kXkpAngxEgw0gUglEZpedNOuWLglEiafDFXww-shQOwDeYGM7DLKu-cCAclw-kvhDgl8OQzoT9IKA3ib>

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ *Sending my condolences to the entire family. Katie was extremely helpful and warm to my wife when she was going through her treatment. My thoughts are with Tom, Katie's folks, her friends and of course Rufus.*

---

**John** - February 28, 2024 at 11:01 PM

SM

“ *My sympathies to Tom, Rufus, and the whole family. I was speaking to a colleague of Mary and her contributions to the genealogical community recently. I enjoyed working with her and will think of her during our upcoming program in NYC (she was a consultant a few years ago). She is gone too soon!*

---

**Sue Miller** - February 27, 2024 at 10:24 AM

EP

“ First off I apologize for how long this is taken but even to this day when I go to talk about this, I choke up and start to cry. My condolences to Tom and of course to Rufus my condolences also, for the rest of her family I do not know you guys I do know Melissa and Alex a little bit, but no one else but my heart is broken for you guys. Katie was a wonderful person and Tom is a wonderful person when I was going through. What time is going to now they open their hearts and their home for me and my puppies to go hide from the city And give me Graig comfort. We miss her very much. She was a very, very special lady who brought happiness into a lot of peoples hearts there so many funny things about Katie and how happy she made people, but one of the most things that will stand out forever in my mind is that we would dance pretty much any song but we had a song called Oogum Boogum whenever it came on, we would jump up and dance whether we were by ourselves or hanging out outside with friends sometimes would be alone and have a couple cans of beer and we would somehow always come up with the name for the Pool Team we used to change it a lot one night I remember us out there dancing and it must've been raining a little bit and definitely rain before we went out there. We didn't care we're dancing in the mud cause they did not have the patio set up yet, but we had a blast, but I am crying my eyes out right now and just these little words has taken me a half an hour to talk once again my condolences to the family and everybody that knew her. I love you into the day I die, but I will be happy sometimes just thinking about you up in heaven, with my wife, hanging out laughing at us , much love to you, Tom and much love to the rest of the family and friends. No one will ever forget Katie. 💔💔💔😭

---

**Edward Peterson** - February 26, 2024 at 08:30 AM

VS

“ Tom, Sympathies and blessings, so sry for your loss.

---

**Valerie Salisbury Scott** - February 24, 2024 at 06:50 PM

CN

“ We just heard the news about Katie. We are so sorry to hear of her passing and our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

*Katie was my first childhood friend and she will always have a special place in my heart. While I haven't seen her since Melissa and Alex's wedding, she will always be that little girl in my heart and in my memories.*

*Please know that we are here for you.*

*Christina Nelson*

---

**Christina Nelson** - February 24, 2024 at 04:58 PM

GC

“ Although we weren't close friends, I always think of Katie as a kind soul with a big heart. May she rest in peace.

---

**Gayatri Choudhary** - February 24, 2024 at 12:50 PM

KW

“ Oh, my sweet, beautiful friend. My heart aches so terribly, and especially for your family. I know you were surrounded by flights of angels.

---

**kristy wheeler** - February 23, 2024 at 05:56 PM